MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Under the Travancore Service Regulations, if the Head of the Department or office is really satisfied that the subordinate who applies for leave is ill, he may grant leave. He can grant leave up to six months without a medical certificate.

Deputation of the Superintendent, Stamp Manufactory, and a blacksmith, for selecting a Printing Machine.

217. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state why the Superintendent of the Stamp Manufactory and an ordinary country blacksmith were deputed to go to Madras to select a printing machine from Messrs. John Dickinson and Co.?

(2) Does either of the two deputed possess any technical knowledge to select a printing machine?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): (1) The Superintendent of the Stamp Manufactory has been in the institution for nearly two years and he is acquainted with the working of the several machines in the Manufactory. He was sent to Madras to select a suitable machine for label printing and to see how the machine is actually worked. There is a blacksmith attached to the Manufactory whose business is to see to the proper working of the machines. He was directed to accompany the Superintendent, to see how the machinery is fitted up and to study its actual working.

(2) Both have practical knowledge and experience of stamp machinery and the technique of stamp manufacture. That is adequate technical knowledge for the purpose.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the cost of the machine that has been purchased?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Quotations have been called for.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether any enquiries have been made with any other firm in Bombay or elsewhere as to the cost of the machine?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Messers. John Dickinson & Co., are the sole representatives in India of the manufacturers of printing machines.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether any other machines were purchased for the use of the Stamp Manufactory?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): There are twenty-three machines in the Stamp Manufactory.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was any body deputed when those machines were purchased?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Those machines were purchased long ago.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): If nobody was then deputed, why was the present Superintendent deputed?

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): He was sent there not to purchase the machine but to see the machines in actual work.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is he expected to possess any technical knowledge for this purpose ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : He possesses practical experience ; he has been in charge of the Stamp Manufactory for nearly two years.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether there was at the time of deputation any mechanically qualified Engineer in the State ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : The *Civil List* will give the necessary information.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : What was the objection of the Government to depute one such Engineer ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : Such a qualified man was not found necessary. An ordinary printing machine alone was needed for label printing.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know why a blacksmith was also sent ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : He is employed there as the mechanic of the Stamp Manufactory. When the machine is got down here, he must know how it is worked. That was why he was sent.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) . May I know the cost of the deputation ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) His bill has not been countersigned yet. Probably it may amount to Rs. 80 or a little more.

Smuggling of Cocoanut Oil through the Arukutty Chowkey.

218. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*). With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of Question No. 31, asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd Karkatakam, 1100, regarding the smuggling of cocoanut oil through the Arukutty Chowkey, will the Government be pleased to give information on the following points :—

(*a*) While, in their answer to Question No. 1 asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 10th Karkatakam 1099, the Government had stated that the report of the Excise Commissioner regarding the smuggling of cocoanut oil through the Arukutty Chowkey had been received and perused by the Government and that the irregularity in having released the articles without recovering the fine was being pointed out to the Excise Commissioner, how was it that the Government stated in Karkatakam 1100 that they subsequently came to know that the articles were released only after recovering fine ?

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